



OPEN MEETING LAW COMPLAINT FORM

Office of the Attorney General
One Ashburton Place
Boston, MA 02108

Please note that all fields are required unless otherwise noted.

RECEIVED

2023 JUL 31 A 10:21

TOWN CLERK
TOWN OF WELFLEET

Your Contact Information:

First Name: Judith Last Name: Ahern

Address: PO Box 394

City: South Wellfleet State: MA Zip Code: 02663

Phone Number: 9174881513 Ext.

Email: jude@judeahern.com

Organization or Media Affiliation (if any): n/a

Are you filing the complaint in your capacity as an individual, representative of an organization, or media?

(For statistical purposes only)

☒ Individual ☐ Organization ☐ Media

Public Body that is the subject of this complaint:

☒ City/Town ☐ County ☐ Regional/District ☐ State

Name of Public Body (including city/town, county or region, if applicable): Wellfleet Shellfish Advisory Board

Specific person(s), if any, you allege committed the violation: Chair Rebecca Taylor

Date of alleged violation: 6/29/23

Description of alleged violation:

Describe the alleged violation that this complaint is about. If you believe the alleged violation was intentional, please say so and include the reasons supporting your belief.

Note: This text field has a maximum of 3000 characters.

There was a public meeting properly posted for a meeting of the Shellfish Advisory Board on June 29, 2023 at 7pm. The agenda was: 1) Announcements, Open Session & Public Comments; 2) Review and approve meeting minutes — June 8, 2023; 3) Status of grants on Indian Neck; 4) Reorganize SAB; 5) Corporations and other business entities named on Grants — Review 3 regulation drafts from Wilson, Devasto and Curley; 6) Future topics.

Instead, a private meeting was held earlier that day by its Chair, one member, Wellfleet Shellfish Constable Nancy Civetta and Town Counsel, Gregg Corbo. At approximately 3pm, a notice was posted to the town website and its Chair thought the Shellfish Constable could "try to text everyone as soon as she is off the tide" as if they somehow could know who "everyone" is. Chair Taylor claimed the purpose of their private meeting with Town Counsel was to "get answers to legal questions from last meeting, since town council is unable to attend tonight's meeting". She shared some notes from that private meeting and said the publicly posted meeting would be rescheduled and "we will add a discussion and potential vote on requesting the Select Board to extend the moratorium on transfers to non natural persons to give ample time for broad community discussion on this important topic. I will be in contact soon about scheduling the next meeting." They didn't meet again during the past month and we haven't seen any notes from that meeting.

The new agenda for tonight is similar but in a different order, most importantly its Board reorganization: 1) Announcements, Open Session & Public Comments; 2) Review and Approve Meeting Minutes — June 8, 2023; 3) Status of Lottery / Grants on Indian Neck; 4) Review of WSD Email on Propagation Discussion; 5) Corporations and Other Business Entities Named on Grants / Input from Town Council, Possible Vote to Request Extension on Discussion Deadline; 6) reorganize Board; 7) Cont. Vote on Agenda Materials Deadline; 8) Future Topics

What action do you want the public body to take in response to your complaint?

Note: This text field has a maximum of 500 characters.

Share with the Public the draft minutes of that meeting. Reschedule the Board before the discussion about Corporations named on Grants. Stop wasting the Public's time discussing Corporatization of Grants, your appointing authority did not request that you meet with Town Counsel nor extend the deadline for discussion because you cancelled a meeting a month ago. The Shellfish Constable should have no part in the Shellfish Advisory Board meetings other than as a guest or invited guest.

Review, sign, and submit your complaint

I. Disclosure of Your Complaint.

Public Record. Under most circumstances, your complaint, and any documents submitted with your complaint, is considered a public record and will be available to any member of the public upon request.

Publication to Website. As part of the Open Data Initiative, the AGO will publish to its website certain information regarding your complaint, including your name and the name of the public body. The AGO will not publish your contact information.

II. Consulting With a Private Attorney.

The AGO cannot give you legal advice and is not able to be your private attorney, but represents the public interest. If you have any questions concerning your individual legal rights or responsibilities you should contact a private attorney.

III. Submit Your Complaint to the Public Body.

The complaint must be filed first with the public body. If you have any questions, please contact the Division of Open Government by calling (617) 963-2540 or by email to openmeeting@state.ma.us.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and understood the provisions above and certify that the information I have provided is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

For Use By Public Body
Date Received by Public Body:

For Use By AGO
Date Received by AGO: